

ABSOLUTE RATING: Good

IMPROVEMENT RATING: Average

Number of districts with students like ours: 9.

The absolute ratings for those districts ranged from good to good. For improvement ratings, the range was from below average to average.

Definitions of District Rating Terms

Excellent- District performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

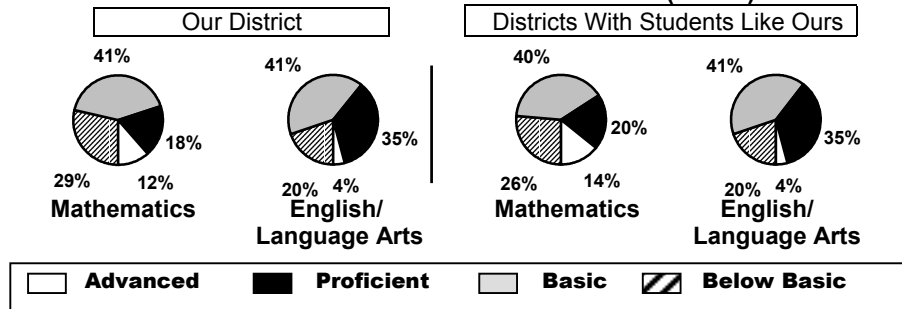
Good- District performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Average- District performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Below Average- District is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Unsatisfactory- District performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT) RESULTS



DEFINITIONS OF CRITICAL TERMS:

- **Advanced** – Student performance exceeded expectations.
- **Proficient** – Student performance met expectations.
- **Basic** – Student performance met minimum performance expectations.
- **Below Basic** – Student performance did not meet minimum performance expectations.

PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS

| Student Group | Percent of Seniors Passing the Exit Exam | Percent of Seniors Qualifying for LIFE Scholarships | Percent of Students Scoring Basic or Above on the PACT | |
|--|--|---|--|-------|
| | | | ELA | Math |
| All Students | 93.6% | 32.3% | 80.2% | 71.5% |
| Students with disabilities other than Speech | 74.1% | 10.7% | 43.6% | 36.3% |
| Students without disabilities | 94.8% | 33.3% | 85.7% | 76.5% |
| Gender | | | | |
| Male | 93.0% | 24.2% | 75.9% | 70.4% |
| Female | 93.7% | 39.5% | 85.2% | 72.5% |
| Ethnic Group | | | | |
| African-American | 78.9% | 8.9% | 62.5% | 50.3% |
| Hispanic | 75.0% | 40.0% | 77.1% | 77.8% |
| White | 94.6% | 32.1% | 82.2% | 73.3% |
| Other | 100.0% | 80.0% | 94.4% | 94.6% |
| Lunch Status | | | | |
| Free/ Reduced-Price Lunch | 84.2% | 13.7% | 67% | 55% |
| Pay for Lunch | 94.3% | 34.0% | 86.6% | 79% |

TENTH GRADE PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE SUBTESTS OF THE EXIT EXAM

| | First-time Examinees | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-------|-------|
| | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 |
| Our district | | | |
| Passed all 3 subtests | 72.6% | 79.7% | 81.0% |
| Passed 2 subtests | 15.5% | 12.2% | 11.3% |
| Passed 1 subtest | 8.4% | 5.9% | 5.3% |
| Passed no subtest | 3.5% | 2.1% | 2.4% |
| Districts with students like ours | | | |
| Passed all 3 subtests | 69.8% | 75.2% | 75.7% |
| Passed 2 subtests | 16.2% | 14.1% | 13.4% |
| Passed 1 subtest | 9.0% | 7.4% | 7.1% |
| Passed no subtest | 5.0% | 3.3% | 3.8% |

LIFE scholarships at four-year institutions

| | Eligible | Percent of Seniors Meeting Grade Point Average Requirement | Meeting SAT/ACT Requirement |
|---------------------|----------|--|-----------------------------|
| Our District | 32.3% | 58.6% | 33.6% |
| Districts Like Ours | 25.9% | 55.3% | 27.8% |

College Admissions Tests: Tests that are frequently used in the college admissions process.

| | SAT Verbal | | SAT Math | | SAT Total | | ACT English | | ACT Math | | ACT Reading | | ACT Science | | ACT Total | |
|----------|------------|------|----------|------|-----------|------|-------------|------|----------|------|-------------|------|-------------|------|-----------|------|
| | 2000 | 2001 | 2000 | 2001 | 2000 | 2001 | 2000 | 2001 | 2000 | 2001 | 2000 | 2001 | 2000 | 2001 | 2000 | 2001 |
| District | 508 | 517 | 506 | 509 | 1014 | 1026 | 20.2 | 21.2 | 20.2 | 20.8 | 21.0 | 22.4 | 20.4 | 21.4 | 20.5 | 21.6 |
| State | 484 | 486 | 482 | 488 | 966 | 974 | 18.7 | 18.8 | 19.2 | 19.3 | 19.5 | 19.5 | 19.2 | 19.2 | 19.3 | 19.3 |
| Nation | 505 | 506 | 514 | 514 | 1019 | 1020 | 20.5 | 20.5 | 20.7 | 20.7 | 21.4 | 21.3 | 21.0 | 21.0 | 21.0 | 21.0 |

These tests were administered to samples of students:

Terra Nova Test: A national, norm-referenced achievement test.

Percent scoring in upper half

| | Reading | | Language | | Math | | Total | |
|----------|---------|--------|----------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| | State | Nation | State | Nation | State | Nation | State | Nation |
| Grade 4 | 47.8 | 50.0 | 43.1 | 50.0 | 58.4 | 50.0 | 50.5 | 50.0 |
| Grade 7 | 45.8 | 50.0 | 59.4 | 50.0 | 54.7 | 50.0 | 53.9 | 50.0 |
| Grade 10 | 59.6 | 50.0 | 59.5 | 50.0 | 62.4 | 50.0 | 59.1 | 50.0 |

National Assessment of Education Progress : A national, criterion-referenced achievement test.

Percents of Students

| Test | Grade | Year | Advanced | | Proficient | | Basic | | Below Basic | |
|-------------|-------|------|----------|--------|------------|--------|-------|--------|-------------|--------|
| | | | State | Nation | State | Nation | State | Nation | State | Nation |
| Reading | 4 | 1998 | 4 | 6 | 18 | 23 | 33 | 32 | 45 | 39 |
| Writing | 8 | 1998 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 23 | 64 | 59 | 21 | 17 |
| Mathematics | 4 | 2000 | 2 | 3 | 16 | 23 | 42 | 43 | 40 | 31 |

DISTRICT PROFILE

INDICATORS OF DISTRICT PERFORMANCE

| | This District | Change from Last Year | Districts With Students Like Ours | Median District |
|--|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| DISTRICT | | | | |
| • Dollars per student | \$5,671 | N/A | \$5,671 | \$6,464 |
| • Prime instructional time | 90.3% | Down from 91.1% | 90.6% | 89.4% |
| • Student-teacher ratio | 21.5 to 1 | N/A | 21.8 to 1 | 20.2 to 1 |
| • Vacancies for more than nine weeks | 0.4% | N/A | 0.3% | 0.6% |
| STUDENTS (n=15,654) | | | | |
| • Advanced placement/ int'l baccalaureate program exam success ratio | 64.7% | N/A | 55.6% | 43.8% |
| • Attendance Rate | 95.8% | Down from 96% | 96% | 95.7% |
| • Taking PACT (ELA) off grade level | 5.7% | N/A | 4.8% | 5.8% |
| • Taking PACT (Math) off grade level | 4.4% | N/A | 3.8% | 4.5% |
| • Retention rate | 4.7% | Up from 3.9% | 4.1% | 6.0% |
| TEACHERS (n=1,099) | | | | |
| • Professional development days per teacher | 7.7 Days | Up from 6.9 | 7.7 Days | 7.8 Days |
| • Attendance rate | 95.2% | Down from 96% | 95.6% | 95.2% |
| • Advanced Degrees | 52% | Down from 52.7% | 53.5% | 44.4% |
| • Continuing contracts | 87.3% | Down from 88.1% | 81.5% | 81.4% |
| • Out-of-field permits | 2.6% | Up from 1.3% | 1.8% | 2.2% |
| • Teachers returning from the previous year | 93.8% | Up from 93.6% | 91% | 89.5% |
| • Average salary | \$38,843 | Up 4.7% | \$38,843 | \$37,143 |

DISTRICT FACTS

| | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| DISTRICT | | | | |
| • Annual dropout rate | 5.2% | Up from 3.3% | 2.3% | 2.9% |
| • Percentage spent on teacher salaries | 56.3% | N/A | 55% | 50.9% |
| • Superintendent's years in the district | 1 | N/A | 8 | 3.5 |
| • Parent conferences | 77.7% | N/A | 78.1% | 81.0% |
| • Opportunities in the arts | Excellent | N/A | Excellent | Excellent |
| • Number of schools | 25 | No change | 13 | 8 |
| • Number of alternative schools | 0 | No change | 0 | 0 |
| • Number of charter schools | 0 | No change | 0 | 0 |
| • Number of magnet schools | 0 | N/A | 0 | 0 |
| • Portable classrooms | 9.4% | N/A | 2% | 6.5% |
| • Attendance rate of district office staff | 97.3% | Down from 98.3% | 97.6% | 97.5% |
| • Average administrative salary | \$62,829 | Up 7.6% | \$65,484 | \$64,098 |
| STUDENTS | | | | |
| • Enrollment in adult education GED or diploma programs | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| • Percent of completions in adult education GED or diploma programs | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| • Suspensions and expulsions | 138 | N/A | 81 | 100 |
| • Percent eligible for state gifted and talented programs | 13.9% | Up from 12.2% | 14.9% | 10.5% |
| • Percentage with disabilities other than speech | 11% | Up from 9.2% | 9.4% | 10.5% |

Pickens School District
1348 Griffin Mill Road
Easley, SC 29640



Grades K-12

Enrollment: 15,654 Students

Superintendent Dr. Mendel Stewart 864-855-8150

Board Chair Mr. Ernie Fortner 864-859-2336

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

| | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Annual District Report Card | 2001 |
|-----------------------------|------|

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The School District of Pickens County is the tenth largest district in South Carolina with 16,000 students, 4K-12, in twenty-eight schools and programs. Our board of trustees and district administration are committed to providing excellent schools and outstanding educational opportunities for our students. The district's accomplishments are a credit to the efforts of our teachers, students, staff, and parents. The district had 23 teachers (82% of the applicants) attain certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. A Teacher Forum was established to give teachers and staff a voice in the decision-making process at the district level. Our teachers participated in Weekday Workshops to upgrade their knowledge and skills. A new staff development plan is in place, giving teachers more autonomy for their professional growth. Pickens Middle School was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Two of our schools, D.W. Daniel High School and Pickens Middle School, were finalists in the Carolina Palmetto's Finest Award. Holly Springs Elementary School won the National Kids are Authors Competition, sponsored by Scholastic Books, for an unprecedented third consecutive year. Three schools, A.R. Lewis, Pickens Elementary, and Six Mile Elementary, won a \$1.5 Million 21st Century grant. Pickens County remains a Service Learning Leader District with over 9,000 students participating in service learning activities in 2000-2001.

The Rebound Program, an alternative program for grades 4-8, has helped to reduce the number of student suspensions and expulsions. Each middle and high school has a School Resource Officer, and every school has a nurse. Test scores are consistently above the state and national average on most measures. The district has made progress on reducing class size. This initiative has resulted in the purchase of portable classrooms to supplement permanent classroom space. Athletic facilities at each high school have been improved. Emphasis has been placed on roof and HVAC replacement, but there still exists a need for new and renovated schools. Improved facilities would replace 108 portable classrooms. The administration and board of trustees plan to address the facility needs through a future bond referendum.

Our district is an acknowledged leader in excellence and will continue to emphasize high academic achievement and career preparation for all students through quality educational programs in a caring and safe environment.

South Carolina Performance Goal:

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the five fastest improving systems in the country.

For more information, visit our website at

www.myscschools.com